

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GEORGE 01578 01 OF 02 201115Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 EB-07 TRSE-00 /088 W
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R 201030Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4951
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

USMISSION USUN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: GY, US
SUBJECT: GUYANESE MEDIA TREATMENT OF US-GUYANA RELATIONS

REF: A. GEORGETOWN 1431, B. GEORGETOWN 1430 C. GEORGETOWN 1464

SUMMARY: THE PAST MONTH HAS SEEN EXTRAORDINARILY
INTENSE AND FAVORABLE MEDIA COVERAGE OF EVENTS IN
US-GOG RELATIONS AND OF THE US IN GENERAL. THE
VISIT OF UNDER SECRETARY HABIB AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY
TODMAN'S TESTIMONY (REFTELS) WERE FOLLOWED BY FAVORABLE
FRONT PAGE AND EDITORIAL COVERAGE OF THE
US FOURTH OF JULY. THE BIG NEWS OF AMBASSADOR
JOHN R. BURKE'S APPOINTMENT GOT TWO DAYS OF COVERAGE
(JULY 8 AND 9) AND WAS FOLLOWED ON JULY 10 WITH A
MAJOR ARTICLE IN GOG OWNED PRESS "REBUILDING THE
GUYANA-US BRIDGES." FROM JULY 12 THROUGH 16 DAILY
ARTICLES APPEARED ANTICIPATING AND REPORTING
THE SIGNING OF USAID TRAINING LOAN AND THE SMALL
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PAGE 02 GEORGE 01578 01 OF 02 201115Z

PROJECTS GRANT AGREEMENTS. CONCURRENTLY, OTHER
WIRE SERVICE OR USIS WIRELESS ARTICLES ON STATEMENTS
BY US OFFICIALS ON VARIOUS SUBJECTS WERE PUBLISHED.
ARTICLES HAVE HIGHLIGHTED NEW POSITIVE TONE PROJECTED
BY USG TOWARD CARIBBEAN AND THE NEW MORE SUBTLE
DIPLOMACY EMPLOYED BY THE US. THE EXTREMELY
FAVORABLE PRESS TREATMENT OF THE US PREPARES THE

PUBLIC FOR A FRIENDLY POSTURE BY GOG TOWARD THE
US. END SUMMARY

1. THIS MESSAGE DESCRIBES GUYANA MEDIA COVERAGE OF
US-GUYANESE RELATIONS DURING PAST TWO WEEKS.

2. THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF AMBASSADOR JOHN R. BURKE'S
APPOINTMENT WAS ON FRONT PAGES OF THE
AFTERNOON "CITIZEN" JULY 8 AND IN THE "CHRONICLE" OF
JULY 9. THE "CHRONICLE" PIECE HAD THE HEADLINE
"CARTER PICKS MAN WITH CARIB EXPERIENCE AS NEW
AMABASSADOR TO GUYANA." THE ARTICLE STATED
THAT HIS APPOINTMENT CAME IN THE MIDST OF NOTICEABLY
IMPROVED RELATIONS BETWEEN GUYANA AND THE UNITED STATES.
ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, OBSERVERS BELIEVE THE CARTER
ADMINISTRATION IS MAKING A DETERMINED BID TO IMPROVE
DIPLOMATIC CLIMATE BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND THE
CARIBBEAN CAPITALS.

3. THE SUNDAY CHRONICLE JULY 10 HAD A FULL PAGE
FEATURE BY SENIOR POLITICAL REPORTER MOHAMED
HAMALUDIN CALLED, "REBUILDING THE GUYANA-US BRIDGES."
IT REVIEWED US-GOG RELATIONS, PROBLEMS OF LAST YEAR,
AND IMPROVEMENTS MADE THIS YEAR AND PREDICTED THAT
THE AMBASSADOR'S APPOINTMENT WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY ADVANCE
THE PROCESS OF FULL NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN
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PAGE 03 GEORGE 01578 01 OF 02 201115Z

GEORGETOWN AND WASHINGTON. ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE,
HE WOULD HAVE "TO HIS SPECIAL ADVANTAGE THE FACT THAT
THERE IS ALREADY NOTICEABLE IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS
BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES DUE NO DOUBT TO PAINS-
TAKING BEHIND-THE-SCENE EFFORTS BETWEEN BOTH SIDES."

4. DESCRIBING THE VICTORY OF PRESIDENT CARTER AS THE
BADLY NEEDED PEG ON WHICH CARIBBEAN AND OTHER THIRD
WORLD STATES COULD HANG THEIR HOPES FOR A MORE MATURE
RESPONSE FROM THE UNITED STATES TO THEIR PROBLEMS
AND ASPIRATIONS, THE ARTICLE OUTLINED RECONCILIATION
EFFORTS. IT MENTIONED THAT IT WAS A RELIEF TO MANY
OBSERVERS THAT THE US-GOG QUARREL HAD BEEN PATCHED
UP. IT CREDITED THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S "SWITCH
TO MORE SUBTLE DIPLOMATIC METHODS THAN ITS PREDECESSOR,
SUCH AS ITS HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN" AS PROVIDING THE
BASIS FOR IMPROVEMENT. STATEMENTS BY ASSISTANT
SECRETARY TODMAN, UNDER SECRETARY HABIB AND THE US
CHARGE (DURING A TOAST JULY 4) WERE CITED AS SIGNALING
A NEW AND POSITIVE US APPROACH TO THE
CARIBBEAN, INCLUDING GUYANA. IT SUGGESTED THAT
THE UNITED STATES SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT CERTAIN

FOREIGN POLICY THRUSTS OF GUYANA EMANATE FROM DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONDITIONS IN THE COUNTRY--IN THE SAME WAY THAT US FOREIGN POLICY STEMS FROM AMERICAN DOMESTIC DETERMINANTS (SEPTEL FOLLOWS ON ASPECTS OF THIS ARTICLE).

6. THE HEADLINE ON JULY 13 GUYANA "CHRONICLE" READS, "MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR PROJECT TO UPGRADE MANAGEMENT TRAINING." IT WAS FOLLOWED BY AN ARTICLE STATING THAT THE GOG WOULD SIGN THAT DAY THE MANAGEMENT TRAINING LOAN WITH USAID. (IN GUYANESE DOLLARS THE PROJECT, INCLUDING GOG CONTRIBUTION, WILL TOTAL OVER G \$4 MILLION.) THE ARTICLE POINTED OUT THAT USAID WAS PROVIDING A SOFT LOAN OF G 2.54 MILLION ON USAID'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 GEORGE 01578 01 OF 02 201115Z

MOST CONCESSIONAL TERMS, AND IT DESCRIBED THE TERMS AND RATE OF INTEREST.

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PAGE 01 GEORGE 01578 02 OF 02 201124Z
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INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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R 201030Z JUL 77
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 GEORGETOWN 1578

7. A PICTURE OF THE LOAN SIGNING CEREMONY FEATURING FINANCE MINISTER FRANK HOPE AND ACTING AID DIRECTOR APPEARED IN THE "CHRONICLE", FIRST PAGE, ON JULY 14.

REPORTERS OUTSIDE THE MINISTER'S OFFICE AFTER THE CEREMONY ASKED WHAT THE LOAN MEANT AND IF IT WAS LEADING TO NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS. THE CHARGE RESPONDED THAT HE FELT THAT THE LOAN WAS "EVIDENCE OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S DESIRE TO FOSTER DEVELOPMENT HERE AND IN OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. I THINK RELATIONS HAVE COME A LONG WAY TOWARD NORMALIZATION ALREADY. THE LOAN ITSELF IS EVIDENCE OF THAT." MINISTER HOPE TOLD THE REPORTERS THAT THE LOAN HAD STARTED FOUR YEARS AGO BUT HAD BEEN PUT IN COLD STORAGE BECAUSE OF DIFFERENCES OF VIEWS. THERE HAD BEEN A CLOSING OF THE GAP IN VIEWS WHEN THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION TOOK OVER AND THIS HAD LED TO THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THE AGREEMENT.

8. THE SMALL PROJECTS DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES GRANT OF \$100,000 WAS SIMILARLY ANTICIPATED IN THE "CHRONICLE" LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 GEORGE 01578 02 OF 02 201124Z

JULY 15 ON THE MORNING BEFORE IT WAS SIGNED. THE ARTICLE INDICATED THE KINDS OF SELF-HELP PROJECTS THAT THE MONEY WOULD FINANCE AND INDICATED ALSO THAT THE US SINCE 1965 HAD PROVIDED OVER US \$425,000 IN GRANTS TO ASSIST IN FINANCING SELF-HELP COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES.

9. THE FOLLOWING DAY, JULY 16, A PICTURE OF THE SIGNING CEREMONY IN MINISTER OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DESMOND HOYTE'S OFFICE WAS PROMINENTLY FEATURED ON THE CENTERFOLD OF THE "CHRONICLE." ALONG WITH AN ARTICLE UNDER THE HEADLINE, "US GOVERNMENT GIVES DOLLARS TO FINANCE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES." MINISTER HOYTE WAS QUOTED BY REPORTERS AFTER THE CEREMONY AS SAYING, "I WOULD SAY THAT THE GRANT IS EVIDENCE OF THE UNDERSTANDING BY THE PRESENT US ADMINISTRATION OF THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF GUYANA."

10. IN ADDITION TO THE NEWS REPORTS OF THESE SPECIFIC DEVELOPMENTS, THE PRESS AND MEDIA OF THE PAST TWO WEEKS CARRIED DAILY ARTICLES FEATURING STATEMENTS BY PRESIDENT CARTER, ANDREW YOUNG, AID ADMINISTRATOR GILLIGAN, AND OTHER US OFFICIALS. AN EDITORIAL, "JULY AND THE COMMON STRUGGLE." APPEARED IN THE "CHRONICLE" CREDITING THE US DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE AND ITS WAR TO SECURE FREEDOM WITH HAVING OPENED THE WAY FOR LIBERATION OF OTHER COUNTRIES. IT LISTED VENEZUELA'S JULY 5 ANNIVERSARY, THE FOUNDATION OF CARICOM, AND OTHER EVENTS WHICH OCCURRED IN JULY AND ASSERTED THAT THE IMPLICATION OF JULY FOR THE UNITED STATES, VENEZUELA

AND THE CARICOM COUNTRIES WAS TO REMIND THEM OF THE
COMMON STRUGGLE WHICH THEY ALL UNDERWENT IN THEIR
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PAGE 03 GEORGE 01578 02 OF 02 201124Z

TRIUMPHANT MARCH TO FREEDOM. IN THE CASE OF THE
UNITED STATES AND VENEZUELA, THE STRUGGLE WAS
"PHYSICAL AND SANGUINARY." THEIR SUFFERING AND
SACRIFICE MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR OTHER PEOPLE TO
OBTAIN THEIR LIBERATION BY NEGOTIATION.

11. COMMENT: THIS EXTRAORDINARILY EXTENSIVE AND
INTENSIVE FAVORABLE NEWS COVERAGE CANNOT BUT FAVORABLY
INFLUENCE POPULAR ATTITUDES TOWARD US. OFFICIALS OF
THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION, INCLUDING ASSISTANT SECRETARY
TODMAN AND UNDER SECRETARY HABIB SPECIFICALLY,
WERE REPEATEDLY PRAISED FOR THEIR ATTITUDES TOWARD
GUYANA AND THE CARIBBEAN AND FOR THE QUALITY OF THEIR
DIPLOMACY. AMBASSADOR BURKE'S ARRIVAL AND ANDREW YOUNG'S
VISIT ARE AWAITED WITH EAGERNESS. WE HAVE NOTED THAT
NORMALIZATION OF US-GOG RELATIONS HAS BEEN RECEIVED
BY MANY GUYANESE WITH A DEEP SENSE OF RELIEF AND
SATISFACTION.

12. ALTHOUGH THE PROSPECT OF DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE IS
WOVEN THROUGH THE MEDIA COVERAGE, NO SPECULATION
CONCERNING LARGE PROJECTS HAS APPEARED. GOG OFFICIALS
ARE UNDER NO ILLUSIONS CONCERNING THE SIZE OF POTENTIAL
US ASSISTANCE HERE. THE FAVORABLE REACTIONS HAVE BEEN
GENERATED BY THE UNDERSTANDING AND EMPATHY EVIDENT IN
US OFFICIAL STATEMENTS PLUS ENCOURAGEMENT OFFERED BY
THE NEW AID ACTIVITY. THE THEMES OF MUTUAL RESPECT AND
UNDERSTANDING RUNNING THROUGHOUT THE MEDIA COVERAGE
UNDERLINE THE IMPORTANCE OF THESE INGREDIENTS IN
ADVANCING US DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS HERE.
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Message Attributes

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